

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'13 AUG 22 P5:04

SENATE
S. No. 1340

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 14, Section 1 mandates that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education available to all. Towards this end, the State shall pursue means of identifying and developing other ways to make education accessible to all.

There are some six institutions accredited by the Commission on Higher Education to maintain distance education programs. The trend for this type of education has been growing all over the world; online and otherwise. With the advent of the information age through the internet, this form of education can be a valuable tool in reaching out to the areas in our country which do not have access to the campuses.

In order to effectively promote this method of learning, we need to be able to secure additional information on this subject.

This bill seeks to commission the Department of Education and the Department of Science and Technology to undertake a study that would generate sufficient data to guide the executive branch of the government in making programs and enable us to provide better legislation on this matter.*

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Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.

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1 AN ACT
2 REQUIRING AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION
3 OF DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Independent Study of
5 Distance Education Act.”

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The Constitution, Article 14, Section 1 mandates
7 that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels
8 and shall take appropriate steps to make such education available to all. Towards this end, the
9 State shall pursue means of identifying and developing alternative ways to make education
10 accessible to all.

11 SECTION 3. *Independent Evaluation.* – The Secretary of Education shall enter into an
12 agreement with the Secretary of Science and Technology to conduct a scientifically correct,
13 statistically valid evaluation of the quality of distance education programs, as compared to
14 campus-based education programs, at institutions of higher education. Such evaluation shall
15 include--

16 (A) Identification of the elements by which the quality of distance education, as
17 compared to campus-based education, can be assessed, including elements such as subject
18 matter, interactivity, and student outcomes;

19 (B) Identification of distance and campus-based education program success, with
20 respect to student achievement, in relation to the mission of the institution of higher education;
21 and

1 (C) By assessing elements, including access to higher education, job placement rates,
2 undergraduate graduation rates, and graduate and professional degree attainment rates,
3 identification of the types of students (including classification of types of students based on
4 student age) who most benefit from distance education programs; who most benefit from
5 campus-based education programs; and who do not benefit from distance education programs.

6 SECTION 4. *Interim and Final Report.* – The agreement under Section 3 shall require
7 that the Secretary of Education submit to the Senate and the House of Representatives--

8 (A) An interim report regarding the evaluation under Section 3 not later than six (6)
9 months after the date of enactment of this Act; and

10 (B) A final report regarding such evaluation not later than one (1) year after the date
11 of enactment of this Act.

12 SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as is
13 necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

14 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
15 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
16 valid and subsisting.

17 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
18 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
19 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

20 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
21 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,